

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Aldermen Joe Martin and Chris Schuchard.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Librarian Jennifer Slaney, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Scott Howard, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) 1) Regular City Council Minutes of August 17, 2015
- 2) Strategic Planning Session Minutes of August 23, 2015
- 3) Strategic Planning Session Minutes of August 24, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$724,914.33
- C) Petition to allow Newman High School to hold their annual Homecoming parade on Friday, October 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm
- D) Petition to Allow Christ Lutheran School to hold Annual 5K on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 8:30 am
- E) Petition from the Knights of Columbus to hold a bucket brigade on September 12, 2015
- F) Partial Pay Request #6 to Martin and Company Excavating in the amount of \$83,602.87 for work at "Plant 1" of the former Northwestern Steel & Wire site with Illinois Green Infrastructure and Mud-to-Parks Grants

The motion was seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook announced that two firefighters have completed their probationary period. Alex Vlakancic was pinned by wife, Melissa. Firefighter Michael Liedberg was pinned by his father, Michael Liedberg, Sr.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve recommendations from Mayor Lee for reappointments to various Boards and Commissions; seconded by Alderman Conklin:

Property Maintenance	Alfred Segneri	expiring June 30, 2017
	David Jones	expiring June 30, 2017
	Marv Lofgren	expiring June 30, 2017

Electrical Commission	Alfred Segneri	expiring June 30 2016
	Nicholas Escobar (Comm Ed)	expiring June 30, 2018

Building Code Board	John Gehrke	expiring June 30, 2018
	Dick Prescott	expiring June 30, 2018

Plan Commission	Mike Mellott	expiring June 30, 2018
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Mechanical Board	Mitchell McNinch	expiring Nov. 12, 2020
	Jeff Lenhart	expiring Nov. 20, 2017

Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September 14 – 18, 2015, as Chamber of Commerce Week; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September 17 – 23, 2015, as Constitution Week; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Sterling Today for reimbursement of development costs associated with the original development of Library Plaza; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to waive the bid process and enter into a construction agreement with Illinois American Water Company for the reconstruction of Avenue L from Fourth Street to Eleventh Street; seconded by Alderman Conklin. Manager Shumard stated that work on LeFevre Road worked well for the City and water company. This should be another good project. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2015-09-15 deeding 13 East Fourth Street to Sterling Today, Inc.**; seconded by Alderman Conklin.

Manager Shumard reported this building has been an eyesore for several years and very costly to demolish. Sterling Main Street Director Janna Groharing stated that Sterling Today hopes to have the building down before the end of the year. Gravel will cover the area until spring when it will be paved. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the Final Plat of Oak Grove Villas – Phase I, re-platting Lots 103 & 104; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2015-09-15 rezoning the CGH Medical Center campus at 100 East LeFevre from R-5 Special to R-5 Special Use Planned Unit Development**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Conklin stated that he would take pictures of things that he believes are a nuisance so they can be discussed. Mayor Lee recommended that he speak with Amanda about those issues.

Alderman Wilen asked how Seventh Avenue was chosen for reconstruction. Manager Shumard explained a software program was purchased about five years ago. Each street in the City was ranked by traffic and condition. Several streets come up each year for reconstruction. Seventh Avenue was chosen to coordinate with the work at the Manahan Home. Street work was limited this year because City crews were unable to do concrete work. The projects with Illinois American Water were a bonus because of the shared costs.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone of the Fiesta Parade on Saturday at noon. Chief Cook encouraged Council members to gather at the main station around 11:30 am if they were going to ride on the fire truck.

Alderman Stauter reported that Thomas Park looks great. Many people have been visiting the park. Stauter also asked what is being done with all the televisions lying along the streets. Superintendent Schmidt stated they try to find who dumped the television but no one knows. Code Enforcement picks them up before they get broken.

Mayor Lee reminded everyone of the Bridge the Community Run, Fiesta Parade and the Kids Arts on Banners along the bridge. He also reported the riverfront grants are moving along. By the end of October, the Plant 1 site should be seeded. Mayor Lee reported that Anita Elgin, a 40 year employee at the Library is battling cancer and asked everyone to pray for her and her family.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to move to “closed session” at 7:04 pm to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Conklin made a motion to reconvene the regular Council meeting at 7:19 pm; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Conklin made a motion to authorize Mayor Lee to enter into the Employee Separation Agreement with Amy Meyer; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm for a Study Session to discuss the Wage and Compensation Study.

Manager Shumard explained that he had some quibbles over the findings from the study pertaining to job descriptions and responsibilities. Based on his perceptions, he presented three sets of spread sheets with recommendations on the Study:

- Consultant Minimum Recommendations (Cost \$114,046)
- Manager Minimum Recommendations (Cost \$70,099)
- Manager Recommendations addressing senior positions (Cost \$148,984)

With these expenses, Manager Shumard recommended a utility tax on electric and/or gas. Shumard is waiting for estimates from both utilities. He stated this is an alternative because EAVs continue to fall and sales taxes are sluggish. Shumard asked Attorney Coplan if there could be an exemption for Sterling Steel. Coplan did not see anything in the statutes providing for exemptions.

Alderman Stauter stated that he had begun to look over the survey and asked if merits and evaluations are done routinely. He feels everything in the survey correlates together. Alderman Stauter asked about holidays. Manager Shumard stated that instead of adding a holiday, a personal day would not cost as much in overtime.

Mayor Lee questioned if the City should consider Martin Luther King Day as a holiday. Superintendent Howard stated that holidays cause more overtime costs.

Manager Shumard stated he would get numbers from the utility companies to determine what kind of revenues could be expected for a utility tax.

Mayor Lee reminded Council members that during Strategic Planning Sessions, they were in favor of study sessions. These will be occurring following regular meetings.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk